

Catawba County - Fire, Animal Control

ARTICLE II: ANIMAL CRUELTY

§343.21 GENERAL CARE; PROHIBITED ACTS

All animals shall be kept and treated under sanitary and humane conditions and it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in one or more of the following acts:

- (A) Failures to provide adequate food water and shelter.
 - (1) All animals, unless otherwise indicated in this chapter, shall be given at suitable intervals, not to exceed 24 hours, a quantity of wholesome foodstuff suitable for the age and species of the animal and sufficient to maintain a healthful level of nutrition.
 - (2) All animals shall have access to a constant supply of clean, fresh water.
 - (3) All animals shall be provided with adequate shelter from the weather at all times. It shall be within the discretion of animal control officers to determine what constitutes adequate shelter. Examples of inadequate shelter include, but are not limited to the following:
 - (a) Underneath outside steps, decks and stoops.
 - (b) Underneath houses.
 - (c) Inside or underneath motor vehicles.
 - (d) Inside metal or plastic barrels.
 - (e) Inside cardboard boxes.
 - (f) Inside temporary animal carriers or crates.
 - (g) Shelters located in flood-prone areas
 - (h) Shelters surrounded by debris, obstructions or impediments that may endanger an animal
- (B) Failure or refusal of any person in contact with or having knowledge of a sick, diseased or injured animal to provide proper medical treatment for the animal or notify the Animal Control Division of the condition. A sick animal shall go no longer than twenty-four (24) hours without veterinary care.
- (C) Animal cruelty. Examples of cruel treatment include, but are not limited to the following:
 - (1) Allowing a collar, rope or chain to become embedded in or cause injury to an animal's neck.
 - (2) Allowing a choke or pinch collar to be used as a primary collar when the animal is left unsupervised.
 - (3) Allowing a dog or cat to be left outside in inclement weather or extreme temperatures without adequate shelter.
 - (4) Intentionally allowing animals to engage in a fight.
 - (5) Allowing animals to live in unsanitary conditions.
 - (6) Allowing animals to live in crowded conditions.
 - (7) Failure or refusal to obtain medical treatment for an animal when in an animal control officer or animal cruelty investigator's opinion such treatment is needed.
 - (8) Shooting a dog, either on or off of the owner's property, unless the dog is in the act of chasing or attacking a human being, sheep, cattle, horse, hog, goat, poultry or any other domestic animal.
 - (9) Trapping a dog or cat without a "Request for Animal Trap" issued by animal control.
 - (10) Permitting any exhibit, function or activity where animals are being cruelly treated or animals run the risk of causing injury to the public or themselves. The animal control division shall have the authority to inspect and to close down public exhibits of animals which are part of fairs, carnivals, festivals, fund raising events, petting zoos and any other activity or function carried out in the county if it is determined that animals are being cruelly treated or run the risk of causing injury to the public or themselves.

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- (D) Chaining or tethering an animal to a stationary object for a period of time or under conditions that an animal control officer or animal cruelty investigator deems harmful or potentially harmful to the animal. Examples of improper chaining or tethering include, but are not limited to the following:
- (1) Using a length or weight of a chain or tether that is not appropriate for the size, weight and age of the animal. Guidelines for the proper weight and length of chains or tethers can be obtained from the animal shelter or animal control.
 - (2) Using a chain or tether made of rope, twine, cord or similar material.
 - (3) Using a chain or tether that is less than 10 feet in length and/or does not have swivels on both ends. All chains or tethers must be attached to the animal by means of a properly fitting harness or collar of not less than 1 inch in width.
 - (4) Using a chain or tether that exceeds ten-percent (10%) of the animal's body weight.
 - (5) Allowing an animal to be chained or tethered such that the animal is not confined to the owner's property or such that the chain or tether can become entangled and prevent the animal from moving about freely, lying down comfortably or having access to adequate food, water and shelter.
 - (6) Using a chain as a primary collar. All collars used for the purpose of chaining or tethering an animal must be made of nylon or leather.
- (E) Leaving an animal in a closed vehicle or other enclosure for such duration or at such temperatures as an animal control officer or animal cruelty investigator deems harmful or potentially harmful to the animal.